

Course Number: **ARC6979**  
Course Title: **Master's Research Project - Sustainable Studio**  
Term: Offered Spring, Summer, and Fall Semesters Variable,  
Credits: 1-10 credits  
Grading Scheme: Letter Grade  
Meeting Times: As arranged with faculty committee.  
Meeting Locations: As arranged with faculty committee.  
  
Instructor: ARC faculty committee chair, as arranged with student.  
  
Office Location: Refer to <https://dcp.ufl.edu/faculty/> for faculty office locations.  
Email Address: Refer to <https://dcp.ufl.edu/faculty/> for faculty email addresses.  
Telephone Number: Refer to <https://dcp.ufl.edu/faculty/architecture/> for faculty telephone numbers.  
  
Teaching Assistant: Not applicable  
TA Contact Info: Not applicable  
  
Office hours: Refer to schedules posted on doors of faculty offices.

## SYLLABUS

### 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The UF Graduate Course Catalog describes this course as follows: "Master's Research Project."<sup>1</sup> This course is an individually-directed student exploration of the discipline of architecture and demonstration of fully developed abilities in architectural design and research.

### 2. COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Science in Architecture (MSAS) degree at the University of Florida requires completion of a Thesis or a Project in Lieu of Thesis (PILOT). Both the Thesis and PILOT are acceptable for completion of the degree program, and they are deemed equivalent by the UF Graduate School. Students are required to complete 6 credits of ARC6971 (Thesis) or ARC6979 (PILOT) for the MSAS degree programs. The UF Graduate School further requires that this coursework (ARC6971 or 6979) is to be completed in the final semester of the program, immediately prior to graduation.

ARC6979 is for those students who elect to complete a Project in Lieu of Thesis (PILOT). In the UF School of Architecture, the PILOT is sometimes informally referred to as a "Masters Research Project" or "MRP." While the Thesis will most often follow research formats common in either the sciences or humanities, the PILOT is more closely aligned with practices common to the arts. In most cases, PILOTs will involve speculative design proposals and/or research that involves the making of architectural drawings, models, and/or physical constructions of varying scales. PILOTs are rigorously-developed design research projects, often incorporating research and analysis of precedent and/or case study projects. Students present and "defend" their research during Interim and Final Reviews in front of juries including their supervisory committee members, additional faculty reviewers, and invited guests.

Following the Final Reviews, students work with their supervisory committees to develop appropriate formats for documenting their research work and situating the work within disciplinary practices. These documents will typically include a digital book format, but may also include video recordings, sound recordings, and/or other types of media as allowed by the Institutional Repository at UF (IR@UF).

### 3. COURSE OBJECTIVES AND/OR GOALS

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate mastery of all aspects of previous architectural education.
- Articulate and engage a project entirely of their own definition.
- Convincingly define significant aspects of architecture, and employ these aspects in design or research.
- Contribute to the exploration and development of the discipline of architecture.

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<sup>1</sup> UF Graduate Catalog, Architecture: <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/courses-az/architecture/>

#### 04. WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Weekly course schedule of topics will vary based on the projects developed by students. Students should consult with their faculty committee members to create a structure and sequence of research activities, including but not limited to:

- Literature reviews
- Case study research and/or detailed study of precedent projects
- Ethical conduct of any work involving human subjects, in accordance with the UF Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- Iterative design thinking, evidenced through work completed over the course of the semester
- Writing, speculative drawings, physical model-building, digital modelling, and/or large-scale installations, as deemed appropriate for the research work being conducted
- Crafting of interim and final project materials that address the project goals and objectives
- Creation of the final book that collects, organizes, and critically reflects on project work.

#### 05. METHODS BY WHICH STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED AND THEIR GRADE DETERMINED

Students will be evaluated by their faculty committee members. Common assignments for all students include:

- One-page project abstract, submitted via Canvas in prescribed format.
- Interim Project Review, with faculty committee members and external reviewers.
- Final Project Review, with faculty committee members and external reviewers.
- Final Book, for submission to the UF Libraries, meeting prescribed format requirements, including:
  - Standard title page with required information
  - Grant of Permissions: Internet Distribution Agreement
  - Permission to Quote or Reproduce Copyrighted Materials
  - PILOT Chair Approval Form for Final Book Submission

Students should consult with their faculty committee members to discuss additional requirements that will be used to determine grades, including weighting of assignments.

#### 06. CLASS ATTENDANCE, MAKE-UP EXAMS, AND OTHER WORK

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See *UF Graduate Academic Regulations* (<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>) for more information regarding University Attendance Policies.

#### 07. ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

#### 08. LIST OF ALL REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

This class does not have any required textbooks. Recommendations for supplemental reference materials, books, case studies, and precedent projects will be provided by individual faculty committee members.

#### 09. COURSE EVALUATIONS

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Your thoughtful responses to these questions will help inform both the content and conduct of this course in the future.

#### 10. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FEES

This course has an "Additional Course Fee" of \$31.67.

11. UF GRADUATE SCHOOL GRADING POLICIES FOR ASSIGNING GRADE POINTS

	Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Grade Points	Qualitative Description
PASSING GRADES	A	100% to 94.0%	4.0	Outstanding work only
	A-	< 94.0% to 90.0%	3.67	Close to outstanding
	B+	< 90.0% to 87.0%	3.33	Very good work
	B	< 87.0% to 84.0%	3.0	Good work
	B-	< 84.0% to 80.0%	2.67	Good work with some problems
	C+	< 80.0% to 77.0%	2.33	Slightly above average work
	C	< 77.0% to 74.0%	2.0	Average work
FAILING GRADES	C-	< 74.0% to 70.0%	1.67	Average work with some problems
	D+	< 70.0% to 67.0%	1.33	Poor work with some effort
	D	< 67.0% to 64.0%	1.0	Poor work
	D-	< 64.0% to 61.0%	0.67	Poor work with some problems
	E	< 61.0% to 0.0%	0.0	Inadequate work

Current UF grading policies can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#text> (go to “Graduate Academic Regulations,” and then “Grades”).



Please note that the University of Florida Graduate School requires that a graduate student maintain a 3.0 (B) average to remain in good academic standing. Note:

*“Any graduate student may be denied further registration if progress toward completing the program becomes unsatisfactory to the academic unit, college, or Dean of the Graduate School. Unsatisfactory scholarship is defined as failure to maintain a B average (3.00) in all work attempted. Graduate students need an overall GPA of 3.00 truncated and a 3.00 truncated GPA in their major (and in the minor, if a minor is declared) at graduation. Students with less than a 3.00 GPA may not hold an assistantship or fellowship.”<sup>2</sup>*

The Graduate School considers grades of C-minus or lower to be failing grades. Note that you cannot graduate with any failing grades (C-minus or lower) or incomplete (“I”) grades on your transcript.

**SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE INFORMATION**

12. COURSE TECHNOLOGY

The UF Canvas e-learning portal will be used for sharing of certain common references available in electronic format. It will be accessible at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. Notify your faculty if you do not have access to the course. We will also use Zoom for synchronous online learning across multiple classroom locations. Links to the class Zoom meetings will be provided through Canvas.

13. UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY + ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the UF Conduct Code website for more information: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

<sup>2</sup> UF Graduate Academic Regulations, <https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/>

## SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE STATEMENTS:



Plagiarism includes the direct copying of text/images from other sources as well as minor alterations of work created by others (mirroring, application of visual effects/filters/distortions, etc.). Plagiarism is a serious offense and can lead to failure of the course and/or premature dismissal from the Graduate School. We expect that the work you prepare is wholly your own, created this semester for this course. You are expected to provide appropriate citations and/or credit for images, text references, and design influences, where appropriate. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please consult your instructors.

Students in the School of Architecture are expected to adhere to all University of Florida academic honesty policies. Since the University's policies are necessarily generalized, the School of Architecture further clarifies academic honesty within the specific setting of design education. The following acts are considered to be academic dishonesty:

### **A. Plagiarism / Misrepresentation**

There should be no ambiguity around what work is your own as opposed to work created by others. This applies to all aspects of student performance, including but not limited to:

- CAD drawings and construction details
- Design guidelines (written and graphic)
- Design, planning, and management projects or portions of projects
- Class reports and papers (written and graphic information)
- Any assignment where sole authorship is indicated or expected, such as take-home tests, individual projects, etc.

Examples of inappropriate activities include:

- Copying graphics for a report without crediting the original source
- Representing someone else's work as your own (using existing CAD construction details, tracing drawings, etc.)
- Using the work of others with minor alterations (mirroring, application of visual effects/filters/distortions, etc.)
- Allowing someone else to represent your work as his/her own

Given the collaborative nature of design studios, interaction between students is desirable, but the intention and degree of assistance must be appropriate. For example, it is appropriate to discuss the assignment/method/software program/course materials—but it is not appropriate to solve or resolve a large portion of the project together.

The importance of precedent and learning from past works is a necessary part of most design processes. Again, it is the intent and degree of “borrowing” ideas that is at question.

Anything not original must be paraphrased and cited, or explicitly quoted, using accepted style formats such as APA, MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, etc. This includes information obtained from the Internet, public documents, graphics, and personal interviews as well as more traditional written sources. Proper crediting of all information is necessary for academic honesty as well as for professionalism. For example, analysis drawings and/or text should cite the sources from which data was obtained so that if questions arise later, they can be quickly and accurately answered.

### **B. Multiple submissions of the same or similar work without prior approval**

If the instructors understand that you are doing a paper associated with your thesis or senior project topic, then doing similar work for two different classes is acceptable—if the instructors agree to it. If a single paper is submitted for one class, then later is submitted for another, and the instructors expect original work, then the multiple submission is inappropriate.

### **C. Falsifying Information**

Examples include:

- Misrepresenting reasons why work cannot be done as requested
- Changing or leaving out data, such as manipulating statistics for a research project, or ignoring/hiding inconvenient but vital site information. In some cases, for educational purposes only, certain aspects of the “real world” may be jointly agreed upon as not being pertinent to the academic goals of the course, such as not dealing with specific project parameters or budget, changing the program, etc. These exclusions should always be explicitly articulated.
- Altering work after it has been submitted
- Hiding, destroying, or otherwise making materials unavailable (hiding reference materials, not sharing materials with other students, etc.)

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Academic Policies**

Students must be familiar with the university's academic policies found at this link.

[UF Syllabus Policy Links - Online Course Syllabi - University of Florida](#)

### CHANGES AND REVISIONS

This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be posted to CANVAS.